

**THE SUN
WORSHIPERS
OF ASIA. PP. 1-103**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649428496

The Sun Worshipers of Asia. pp. 1-103 by Charles D. Poston

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CHARLES D. POSTON

**THE SUN
WORSHIPERS
OF ASIA. PP. 1-103**

THE
SUN WORSHIPERS
OF
ASIA.

BY
CHARLES D. POSTON.

Reprinted for the Author from the London Edition.



SAN FRANCISCO:
A. ROMAN & CO., PUBLISHERS.
1877.

PL
1570
.826
1844

Copyright 1844
By A. ROMAN & CO.



914
E. D. [unclear]
7-2 [unclear]

INTRODUCTION.

The materials for the preparation of the following Lecture were collected during an official visit to India, China, Japan, etc., accredited by the Government of the United States.

Personal intercourse with the Parsees, particularly in India, excited a lively interest in the religion and history of the followers of the ancient Zoroaster.

In submitting these crude observations, made upon a subject far beyond my capacity, the concluding paragraph of a circular letter issued by His Excellency, the late Earl of Mayo, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, recommending the writer and his secretary, Colonel Grant, is appended as a grateful tribute to the memory of that eminent representative of Her Majesty's Government in India.

INTRODUCTION.

“ It is the particular desire of His Excellency, the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, that all respect and honor be shown to these gentlemen who are on the eve of starting for Upper India, and that every facility be afforded them in their inquiries at any stations or places where they may stop.

“ His Excellency in Council will rely upon everything being done to show to these representatives of a great and friendly power the high estimation in which it is held by the British Government in the East.”

THE PARSEES.

THE SUN WORSHIPERS.

In the crowded cities of Asia the soul becomes surfeited by contact with myriads of human beings and longs for companionship with nature.

If you wander to the beach at sunset to inhale the breezes from the Spice Islands, you will there observe a congregation of the most interesting people in Asia.

They are the Parsees, or sun-worshippers of Persia, the followers of the ancient Zoroaster, the teacher of the religion of the Magi.

As we stand upon the shore, and witness the adoration paid to the sun by this mysterious remnant of a nearly extinct race, we are carried back to the dawn—aye, to the darkness, for

but little light can be gathered from the faint glimmerings of history.

The Magi first appeared in Jerusalem as a part of the retinue of Nebuchadnezzar, from which it may be inferred that they were the chief priests at the Babylonian Court.

Their religious doctrines are compiled in a sacred volume called the *Zend-Avesta*, of which Zoroaster is the reputed author, claiming to have written it under the direct inspiration of God.

THE "ZEND-AVESTA."

He does not presume to say that the Creator of the Universe condescended to appear before him, but that he learnt His will "from the choir of arch-angels, who sang to his mental ears when in a state of ecstasy; his mind was raised to heaven."

The *Zend-Avesta* does not attempt to give any account of the creation.

The idea pervading the Parsee theology from the first is, that "eternity," or "boundless time."

has neither beginning nor end, and is the only thing that can neither be created nor destroyed, but is that which creates and destroys everything else; therefore, time is considered as the great first cause or creator.

They believe that originally there were two spirits,—good and evil,—typified by light and darkness, each of peculiar activity.

That Oromasdez (Almighty), the Good Spirit, was evolved from the purest light, and is in all his attributes what we call God, and resides as far beyond the sun as the sun is distant from the earth.

That Ariemaios, the bad spirit, corresponding to our Devil, was evolved from the blackest darkness, is the embodiment of evil, and resides in Hades.

That these two spirits are now, and always have been, engaged in antagonistic strife, and will be at war until light prevails.

Oromasdez (Almighty), the God of light, created six other gods or archangels, whose attributes are—